

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2098

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 0531

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJ:CENTO BUDGET

1. BUDGET AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 1975-76 CENTO BUDGET SUBMISSION IS NEARING COMPLETION. AS IN PAST, DELAYS HAVE OCCURRED AS A RESULT OF VARYING AUTHORIZATIONS FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. MOST OF THESE HAVE NOW BEEN RESOLVED AD REFERENDUM BY BAC AND WE ARE DRAWING CLOSE TO SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES FOR APPROVAL.

2. CENTO HAS REQUESTED 586,155 POUNDS STERLING (PS) FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975-76. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 156,155 PS OVER SANCTIONED AMOUNT OF 430,000 PS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1974-75. APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OF THIS INCREASE RESULTS FROM CENTO REQUEST TO INCREASE SALARIES FOR GRADED AND AUXILIARY STAFF BY 20 PERCENT.

3. BAC REVIEW OF CENTO BUDGET REQUEST HAS RESULTED IN AD REFERENDUM REDUCTION OF CENTO BUDGET REQUEST ON MOST SUBSTANTIAL SUBJECT AREAS TO TOTAL FIGURE OF 471,309 PS. THIS FIGURE DOES NOT INCLUDE PROVISION FOR 20 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE. IF 20 PERCENT INCREASE IS GRANTED THIS WILL PLACE TOTAL BUDGET FIGURE AT APPROXIMATELY 521,000 PS.

4. WE FAVOR GRANTING CENTO REQUEST FOR 20 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE BECAUSE (1) COST OF LIVING IN TURKEY HAS RISEN BY MORE THAN
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20 PERCENT IN PAST YEAR AND IS STILL INCREASING AND (2)

BECAUSE THIS CONFORMS GENERALLY WITH FINDINGS OF RECENT DEPARTMENT WAGE SURVEY IN ANKARA WHICH RESULTED IN WAGE INCREASES FOR EMBASSY EMPLOYEES. OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES FAVOR IN PRINCIPLE WAGE INCREASE, BUT HAVE NOT, AS YET, AGREED ON PERCENTAGE. PAKISTAN IS PRINCIPAL HOLDOUT THIS STAGE, AS THEY HAVE SAID THEY ARE UNWILLING TO APPROVE CENTO BUDGET WHICH EXCEEDS 480,000 PS. BRITAIN WILL PROBABLY SUPPORT 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES. TURKEY AND IRAN WILL ALSO PROBABLY SUPPORT THIS. PAKISTAN HAS THUS FAR FIRMLY ADHERED TO TOTAL FIGURE OF 480,000 PS, BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY ACCEDE TO HIGHER FIGURE IF MATTER IS PUT BEFORE COUNCIL OF FEOSTIES.

5. WE REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN WAGES FOR CENTO GRADED AND AUXILIARY STAFF EMPLOYEES AND BUDGET CEILING NOT TO EXCEED 525,00 PS.
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